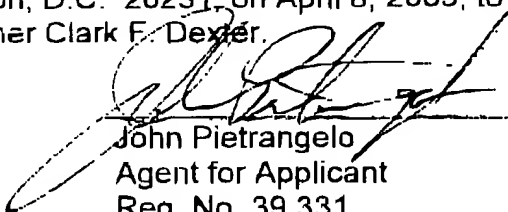


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: **Granger** Attorney Ref.: **1759.053**
Serial No.: **09/966,028** Group Art Unit: **3724**
Filed: **September 28, 2001** Examiner: **Dexter, Clark F.**
Title: **SAFETY DEVICE FOR STRIP DISPENSING MACHINE**

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this document was transmitted via facsimile to 703-305-9835 to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 8, 2003, to the Attention of Examiner Clark F. Dexter.


John Pietrangelo
Agent for Applicant
Reg. No. 39,331

GROUP 3700

APR 08 2003

FAX RECEIVED

Date of Signature: April 8, 2003

Via Fax: 703-305-9835

No. of Pages: 2

To: Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Attention: **Examiner Clark F. Dexter**
Group Art Unit 3724

Dear Sir:

As we discussed in our phone conversation today, April 8, 2003, the Applicant hereby submits proposed claims 16+, with which the Applicant proposes replace pending claims 1 through 15. The Applicant believes that the proposed claims better recite the invention and clearly distinguish from the art of Fleischauer or Fleischauer and Granger.

The Applicant requests that the Patent Office consider the proposed claims and advise the Applicant whether the Patent Office is willing to consider a formal Amendment introducing claims such as these, in lieu of the Applicant having to file an RCE application.

Upon deletion of claims 1-15, the Applicant proposes the following new claims:

Applicant: Granger
Serial No.: 09/966,028
Page 2 of 2

Attorney Ref.: 1759.053
Group Art Unit: 3724

16. (New) A strip dispensing apparatus comprising:

a drum mounted for rotation, the drum having a groove and the groove having a width;

a shaft mounted adjacent the drum for rotation and deflection, the shaft having a first diameter and a central section having a diameter less than the first diameter and the central section having a width greater than the width of the drum groove; and

at least one belt mounted upon the drum and the shaft, the belt mounted in the groove of the drum and in the central section of the shaft;

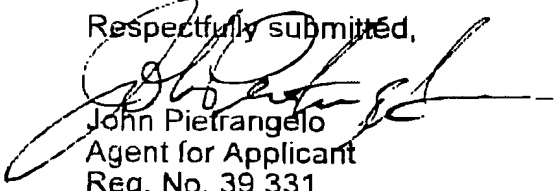
wherein the width of the central section of the shaft allows the at least one belt to deflect sideways over an amplitude, α , when a strip is pulled longitudinally from the strip dispensing apparatus.

17. (New) The strip dispensing apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein the drum comprises an axis of rotation and the shaft comprises an axis of rotation, and wherein the axis of rotation of the shaft is substantially parallel to the axis of rotation of the drum.

18 through 30 (New) including the limitations of cancelled claims 2-15.

Upon receipt of this facsimile, the Applicant requests that you please contact the Applicant's undersigned Agent at the phone number below to discuss the proposed claims. Thank you very much for considering this request.

Respectfully submitted,


John Pietrangelo
Agent for Applicant
Reg. No. 39,331

Dated: April 8, 2003
HESLIN ROTHENBERG FARLEY & MESITI P.C.
5 Columbia Circle
Albany, New York 12203-5160
Telephone: (518) 452-5600
Facsimile: (518) 452-5579